

sc. i. KING HENRY IV. Ill

This Percy was the man nearest my
soul:
Who like a brother toil'd in my affairs,
And laid his love and life under my foot;
Yea, for my sake, even to the eyes of
Richard,
Gave him defiance. But which of you
was by?
(You, cousin Nevil, as I may remember.)
[To WARWICK.]

When Richard,—with his eye brimfull of
tears,
Then check'd and rated by
Northumberland,—
Did speak these words, now provid a
prophecy?
Northumberland, thou ladder, by the
which
My cousin Bolingbroke ascends my
throne:—
Though then, heaven knows, I had no
such intent;
But that necessity so bow'd the state,

i. But which of you was by &c. 1 He
refers to King
Richard II Act IV Sc II But whether
the king's or the au-
thor's memory fails him so it was that
Warwick was not present
at that conversation. JOHNSON
Neither was the King himself present so
that he must have
received information of what passed from
Northumberland. His
memory indeed is singularly
treacherous as at the time of
which he is now speaking, he had actually
ascended the throne*.

RXTSON

a. Cousin NEVIL 1 Shakespeare has
mistaken the name of
the present nobleman. The earldom of
Warwick was at this
time in the family of Beauchamp and did
not come into that of
the Nevils till many years after in the
latter end of the reign of
King Henry VI when it descended to Anne
Beauchamp (the
daughter of the earl here introduced) who
was married to Richard
Nevil Earl of Salisbury STEEVENS
Anne Beauchamp was the wife of that
Richard Nevil (in her
right) Earl of Warwick and son to
Richard Earl of Salisbury
who makes so conspicuous a figure in our
author's Second and
Third Parts of King Henry VI. He
succeeded to the latter title
on his father's death, in 1460, but is
never distinguished by it.

RXTSON

3. I had no such intent. 1 He means
I should have had

no such intent but that necessity." See
or Shakespeare has here
also forgotten his former play or has
chosen to make Henry
forget his situation at the time mentioned.
He had then actually
accepted the crown. See King Richard II.
Act IV Sc I.
In God's name I'll ascend the regal
throne.* MALONE.